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UP FRONT

Town council debates regulations in proposed fire pit and barbecue structure bylaw.....Page 2

SPORTS

Big catches equal big winners at Elk Point and District Lions Moose Lake Walleye Classic.....Page 3



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Vol. 37 No. 28

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

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F. G. MILLER HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2018 – includes, in alphabetical order, Zoe Ainsworth, Morgan Baker, Tianna Barks, Miguel Cardinal, Brayden Fairbairn, Warren Ference, DJ Drobot, Jan Marinelle Estarez, Hannah Ganske, Dana Gibson, Cyle Graus, Dawson Haesh, Spencer Hardcastle, Alex Hunter, Leshawn Jenkins, Sydney Letwin, Brody Odgaard, Megan Phillips, Sam Pindroch, Jaden Plaska, Chad Poitras, Kaitlin Poitras, Caleb Popiel, Nathaniel Roberts, Travis Scarfe, Everett Smith, Kyle Smith, Darby Swedgan, Nolan Vogel and Tanner Wood.

'Actual graduation' for FGM Class of 2018

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

"You made us proud," F. G. Miller High School principal Colin Bjorkman told the 30 members of the Class of 2018 at the conclusion of Saturday's ceremonies. "This is an actual graduation; everyone will receive a high school diploma."

His remarks followed an afternoon of praise for students, teachers and parents, who all had a part in bringing 13 years of education to a successful conclusion.

The graduands entered the gym to their favourite songs and posed for photos as they advanced to the stage before donning their traditional burgundy and gold graduation gowns and taking their places on the risers before MJ Espinosa led the singing of O Canada.

Nolan Vogel presented the students' message to the parents, after first thanking the teachers "and everyone who has helped us through all of our years of elementary and high school." The parents "are the ones who have been there for us throughout our years of schooling and supported us through all of our ups and downs.

They were always there to help us out, whether it was to give us a kick in the butt to study more or helping us with a school project. They are there to push us through whatever we are facing and to motivate us to move forward and overcome our challenges." Now facing the adult world of making their own decisions, "we still have our parents to turn to when we need help or someone to talk about our issues with. Thank you to all the parents for everything that you have done, and for shaping us from the little children running around at recess to the young adults that we are today that are ready to go out into the real world."

"Don't our kids look good up there?" Dwayne Vogel, who graduated from the same school 30 years before his son, asked the crowd. "Twelve years ago, we walked them into the first grade classroom, and now here they are." He said parenthood has been filled with telling them to "slow down" from the time they were learning to walk until the time they learned to drive, "but you have typically lived your lives at high speed. We have marvelled at your accomplishments, we've always been there for you, we've been nervous

when you were nervous, and we cried too when your hearts were broken. Life after grad will bring a lot more firsts, and there will be struggles, but you will get through them. Don't sweat the small stuff."

Megan Phillips presented the students' message to the teachers. "Every grad in this room has tried their best to get where we are today, and we made it. We finally finished high school. We didn't do it all on our own. We had help from our parents, our peers and lots of help from our teachers. Being a teacher is a big job; you're shaping the brains of future generations. It takes a lot of work, hours upon hours every day, not just classroom hours either. I couldn't imagine all the time and effort would be easy, however they still do it because they want to see us succeed and be able to explain why if we didn't. All of us graduates owe every single one of our teachers a huge thank you for everything you have done for us and dealt with over the past six years, from junior highs acting out in class to the pointless drama, letting us know they were there if we needed to talk and that things get better as you get older.

(Continued on Page 8)

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Proposed fire pit and barbecue policy a hot topic for town council

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

At Elk Point town council's May 28 meeting, the administration was asked to research fire ban policies and fire bylaws from neighboring and similar urban municipalities. After researching 12 municipalities, it was learned that many urban municipalities follow the fire ban policies of their rural neighbors, and the Town of Elk Point is one of these, a process that seems to work well, with county fire bans posted on the town's website.

In the process of reviewing the fire bylaws, it was determined that while a fire pit and barbecue structures procedure is in place, and has been for many years, there is no policy on the books. A draft of a proposed policy was brought to council, and although it is similar to the procedure already in place, brought about a flurry of discussion regarding such aspects as the approved size of fire pits and location of barbecue structures. The current procedure states a maximum size of 32 inches for fire pits and that both those and barbecue structures must be a minimum of 10 feet from anything combustible.

It was agreed that further discussion with Safety Codes Officer Rob Duffy and Fire Chief Lyle Frisby will be required before the matter becomes policy, and both the fire pit and barbecue policy and the possibility of adding a line regarding fire bans to the fire bylaw were tabled until the Sept. 10 council meeting.

New Councillor

The proposed policy was the first town business discussion for new Coun. Tim Smereka, who was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting after winning the June 12 by-election, replacing Sherry Bower-Gagne, who resigned her seat on May 1.

New bylaw

Elk Point's first-ever Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bylaw, which allows the town to appoint someone other than the town's CEO for the position, was given all three readings at last Monday's meeting. The bylaw outlines the powers, duties and functions associated with the position, along with appointment procedures and the tags, tickets and fines for bylaw offences.

A job description for the Bylaw Enforcement Officer was also approved, listing responsibilities to enforce the town's business license, waste collection and disposal, land use, taxi, fire, parking, dog, cat and other animals bylaws, along with 11 provincial legislations ranging from the Traffic Safety Act and Dangerous Dog Act to the Petty Trespass Act and the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act. The job description also outlined the qualifications for the position.

Animal Control

Elk Point's 2011 Animal Control Bylaw received a thorough review and update to meet current needs, and was given all three readings.

Council agreed after a closed session discussion at their May 28 meeting to enter into a contract for a six-month pilot project with RF Protection K9 Services, a company that will perform both animal control and bylaw enforcement duties, with that contract receiving final approval at the end of Monday's meeting.

Changes to the town's organizational chart to reflect the position were also approved.



SWEARING IN - CAO Ken Gwozdz officiates at the swearing in of new Town Coun. Tim Smereka.

The Bylaw Enforcement position was one of the key objectives of the town's third strategic priority, to be a safe, healthy community.

Golf and Country Club

Council met with Don Schultz and Murray Cochrane of the Elk Point Golf and Country Club in a closed session, and gave the town's permission to a request to allow gravel testing on the golf course, providing that the town is notified of the results. If testing should

prove positive for good quality gravel, there is a possibility that the course could be relocated in the future.

Letter of support

The town approved the provision of a letter of support to the Elk Point and District Lions for their application for a 2018 CFEP grant for funding to help match the town's STIP grant for the airport lighting upgrade. The Lions also applied for the grant last year, but were turned down.

Recreation facilities

Word has been received of a \$180 billion Investing in Canada Infrastructure program over 12 years, introduced by the federal government, with \$2 billion of that earmarked for rural and northern communities, to grow local economies, improve social inclusiveness and better safeguard the health and environment of these communities.

Recent discussions on recreation facilities in the County of St. Paul, towns of Elk Point and St. Paul and the Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay brought identified the well-used Elk Point Curling Club and A. G. Ross Arena as facilities in need of eventual replacement. Council asked Gwozdz to contact both the Curling Society and the Ag Society to ask if the town could send an expression of interest in the grants that will become available, on their behalf.

"Elk Point is unique," Gwozdz noted. "We have a lot of volunteers."

Contract signed

Council agreed late in the meeting to sign the contract with Integrated Airport Services Ltd. for the lighting upgrade.

Land

Administration has been asked to prepare letters to be sent to site selectors for potential industries.

Personnel policy

Work continues on the review of the town's personnel policy, a 60-page document that will take more time yet to be completed.

FULL COUNCIL AT THE TABLE

Elk Point has a full slate of council once again, following the June 14 election, where newly elected Coun. Tim Smereka (left) joined Couns. Debra McQuinn, Terri Hampson and Dwayne Yaremkevich and Mayor Lorne Young at the table to determine Elk Point's future.



Chamber ready to take traditional two month summer break

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce held their final meeting before the two month summer break last Wednesday, and agreed that their June 2 Spring Fling dance was a worthwhile endeavor.

While fundraising committee chair Dwayne Yaremkevich said that "with 20 more people, it would have been huge," the event was a success, with excellent participation from the business community in terms of door prize donations, and everyone enjoying the night out. The chamber is still waiting for the final bills to come in before determining how they made out financially.

Renovations at the EcoCentre, which included replacing the dry-wall removed from basement walls

after last year's flood and installing a fire door and handicapped-friendly door handles, are virtually complete and the next task is to get the elevator up and running. President Terri Hampson said she had a renter eager to move a business into the upstairs area.

Meanwhile, the downstairs is finally once again home to the tourist information centre, with local teen Kolbie Poitras hired for the next eight weeks. New information has arrived, and the information centre will be open 10:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until late August.

One of the chamber's newest members, Desiree Maas of Property Plus Realty, thanked the chamber for their part in her recent grand opening. "It was a good day, and it was really sweet to have the ribbon cutting ceremony," she said.

Town of Elk Point CAO Ken Gwozdz reported on the latest airport developments, telling the chamber members that the contract from the Province of Alberta has been signed and funding will be forthcoming. The town's portion is expected to be approximately \$143,000, and "we may have to adjust the budget." The County of St. Paul plans to contribute to the project, which will upgrade the runway lighting to the appropriate standards for 24-hour use. Five bids with "a lot of variation" were received, and Gwozdz said equipment is already moving in to get the work underway, including some special equipment purchased by the engineer for the Elk Point project.

The chamber agreed to continue their longstanding tradition of a summer break, and will meet next on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

DATE & LOCATION CHANGE

Wed. July 11, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.

VERMILION & DISTRICT HOUSING FOUNDATION

Sale Location: Vermilion Valley Lodge, 4610 - 53 Ave

Mon. July 23, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

GRIZZLY BEAR FARMS LTD.

(Maxine, Edward & Robert Sweeney)

Sale Location: From Vermilion Overpass, 3 Miles East on Hwy 16 to Range Road 62, 8 1/2 Miles South to Twp Road 492, East Side. (21) Hopper Bins* (1) Flat Bottom Bin

List is subject to additions and deletions.
This listing is only a guide and in no way a guarantee of size, description or year.

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Big catches at Moose Lake Walleye Classic

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

When every single catch of the weekend was recorded and added up, Elk Point and District Lions had a second-time champion to engrave on their Moose Lake Walleye Classic challenge trophy. Ryan Johnson, who teamed up with Chris Suhan to win the 2015 derby, proudly accepted the trophy with teammate Edwin Johnson, after the pair recorded a two-day total catch weighing 38.98 pounds, over 5.5 pounds more than the winning 2015 catch.

The Johnsons received top prize money of \$17,280 for the win, to add to \$840 for the largest fish on Saturday, which weighed in at 5.90 pounds and was part of the top catch of the day, weighing 20.26 pounds and winning \$2,160, up from their fifth-best weight of 18.70 pounds on Friday, which added another \$432 to the total.

The Johnsons also won top prize money in the Calcutta, betting on their own team and winning \$3,040 to top off an excellent weekend. Other Calcutta winners were Murray Cochrane, winning \$1,520 for a bet on John Bissonette and Jim Wagg, and Ken Carpenter, who won \$2,280 for a bet on Harold and Karen Brown.

The Browns also had an outstanding weekend, starting off with \$1,000 from S&T Energy Services as the Top Mixed Team, then adding third place in Saturday's day money with a 19.20 pound catch for \$1,296, that when added to their 18.666 pound Friday catch, came to a grand total of 37.86 pounds to win second place overall and \$12,960.

The Top Youth Team also finished in the big money. Billy and Luken Fleming received \$1,000 from the Elk Point Oilmen's Association for that win, and topped the scales on Friday with a 19.54 pound catch to win first day money of \$2,160. The duo weighed in another 15.68 pounds on Saturday, adding up to a 35.22-pound total and seventh place overall, with a \$3,460 prize cheque to top off a successful weekend.

Friday's biggest fish was brought in by Tyrell Moorey and Mike Copeland, weighing 6.36 pounds and winning the pair \$860. Friday's day money winners, in addition to the Johnsons and Flemings, were: 2. Dan Dolinsky and Dale Minor, 19.46 lb., \$1,728; 3. Blaine Hansen and Terry Mandziuk, 19.36 lb., \$1,296; 4. Robert Bruens and Aaron Harasimiuk, 18.84 lb., \$864. Saturday's day money, in addition to the Johnsons and Browns, went to: 2. Louis and Rejean Bourget, 19.74 lb., \$1,728; 4 Tyrell Moorey and Mike Copeland, 18.54 lb, \$964; 5. John Bissonette and Jim Wagg, 18.50 lb., \$432.

Bissonette and Wagg also placed third overall, with a total catch of 36.70 lb., winning \$10,368. Fourth were Brent Mattice and Ron Malo with 35.52 lb. and \$8,640; fifth, Terrence and Shirley Yushyshyn, 35.50 lb. and \$6,048; sixth, Blaine Hansen and Terry Mandziuk, 35.30 lb. and \$4,320. Following the seventh place Flemings were: eighth, Erick Filewich and Ryan Domino, 35.06 lb. and \$2,592; ninth, Mike Buryksa and Wilson Patry, 35.02 lb. and \$1,728; and 10th, Greg Kubel and Curt Wright, 34.94 lb. and \$864.

Tournament chairman George Hahn thanked the weigh boat volunteers for their efforts, noting, "Today was unbelievable. It was a big turnaround from yesterday," when many catches were smaller and fewer in number. He also thanked all the participants for making it another successful tournament. Next year, Hahn said, walleye tournament organizers will "probably all be changing our dates" and possibly adding more tournaments to the lineup.



BEST OF THE BEST - Moose Lake Walleye Classic organizer George Hahn and fellow Lions member Jason Boorse presented the 2018 championship trophies and top prize money of \$17,280 to Ryan and Edwin Johnson, whose two-day catch, including Saturday's biggest fish, added up to 38.98 pounds.



TOP MIXED TEAM - Harold and Karen Brown, shown accepting a \$1000 prize from Shaun Hughes of S & T Energy Services, also placed second overall in the tournament, weighing in 18.66 pounds of walleye.



TOP YOUTH TEAM - Billy and Luken Fleming accepted the Elk Point Oilmen's Association \$1,000 prize from Ryan Hahn as George Hahn added his congratulations.

Watch next
week's issue for
full Canada Day
coverage

THANK YOU

Elk Point Lions Club would like to thank the 95 teams, sponsors and volunteers for all the help at the 7th Annual Moose Lake Walleye Classic on June 22 & 23, 2018. The Elk Point Lions Club gave out more than \$100,000 in cash & prizes!

PAY OUT TOP 5

1st - Ryan & Edwin Johnson	\$25,772.00
2nd - Harold & Karen Brown	\$15,258.00
3rd - John Bissonnette & Jim Wagg	\$10,800.00
4th - Brent Mattize & Ron Malo	\$8,640.00
5th - Terrence & Shirley Yushyshyn	\$6,048.00

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S&T Energy Services Ltd.	Wilter Auto Elk Point
Craig Hutton	Home Town Grocers
Hahn Welding & Oilfield Services	The Reel Doctor
Town Of Bonnyville	B&R Eckel's
Superior Safety	Greg Kubel

The Elk Point Lions Club would like to give a **SPECIAL THANKS** to the Bonnyville Rodeo Association for the use of their facility!

New for 2019

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No fish in live wells

SEE YOU ON THE WATER IN 2019!

EDITORIAL

ConGRADulations, Classes of 2018!

Congratulations to the high school graduates in Elk Point, Heinsburg and surrounding areas. You have made the grade, and are on the brink of a bright future. Where to go from here? It's up to you, whether you plan to become a professional, learn a trade or enter the workforce. Whichever direction you travel, ask yourself, "Is this what I want to do, or am I doing this to fulfill someone else's dreams for me?" If it's not your dream, you may want to rethink your destination. It's your future, not theirs. Choose wisely.

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping anglers safe on the water

SUBMITTED COPY

June 30th to July 8th marks National Fishing Week in Canada. The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) and the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) want to remind anglers that wearing your lifejacket is even more important than wearing your 'lucky fishing hat'. But they do share one trait. They both have to be worn to be effective!

According to the CSBC and the Lifesaving Society, 80 percent of recreational boaters who drown each and every year in Canada were not wearing a lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD). Most of these drownings occur in small, open power boats, accounting for 60 per cent of these preventable deaths. A majority of these victims were males between the ages of 19 and 35, out for a day of fishing.

Many of those who don't wear their lifejackets or PFDs believe that, since they are good swimmers, having them onboard and within easy reach is good enough. But a lifejacket stored under a seat or up in the bow will be of no help when the unexpected happens, like falling overboard while trying to net the catch.

National surveys clearly show that more than half the recreational boats sold in Canada are used for fishing on a regular basis," says John Gullick, Chair of the CSBC. "During National Fishing Week, the Canadian Safe Boating Council would like to remind all anglers not only to have their lifejacket onboard their boat, but to look after it and wear it. If you happen to fall overboard, it will give you the time you need to calm down, catch your breath, assess your situation and effect, or help effect, a rescue. In two out of three drownings related to boating, the victims were less than 15 meters from some form of safety."

Many of today's anglers are delighted with the models that are designed especially to suit their needs. They're rugged, allow for full freedom of movement to cast and are constructed with lots of pockets for gear. Some even come equipped with an attachment from which to hang a landing net. When choosing their lifejacket, anglers should also check the label to make sure it is Transport Canada approved, is the correct size and fits snugly.

"You wouldn't go fishing without putting your boat's drain plug in, so why would you go without putting on a flotation device that can save your life", says Doug Butler, President of the Alberta Fish & Game Association.

Fishing is a part of our Canadian fabric and an activity that's easy to get hooked on. At this important time of year, the CSBC and AFGA are asking those who fish to 'Get Hooked on Lifejackets' too.

This initiative is made possible through support of Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Pioneer Park, Grace Franks awards, good citizenship

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 2 IN...

1988

The newly completed Stoney Lake Pioneer Park was dedicated to the area's pioneers at its grand opening by MLA John Drobot, who spoke on the area's history dating back to 1760, when it was given that name by the Stoney Indians who fished its waters and traded smoked fish at the forts along the North Saskatchewan. Ralph Riemer was honoured by Sunshine Bus Lines when he retired after 14 years of driving a school bus for that company.

1993

Fort George and Buckingham House Interpretive Centre celebrated its first anniversary, with Director of Visitor Services Louise Crane, a descendant of Peter Fidler and his Cree wife, telling the crowd that the centre explains the fur trade from the Native viewpoint, and shows how the Native women helped to cross the cultural gap and create harmony between the two groups. Awards of Excellence went to 12 Elk Point Elementary students: Melanie Johnson, Kevin Frankiw, Julie Young, Tanya Pankiw, Kali Cousins, Dean Sereda, Levi May, Andrea Myshaniuk, Erica Nielsen, Michelle Hutton, Leanne Wilson and Jennifer Flanders, who had qualified twice for Grace Franks Awards.

1998

Elk Point Elementary's Grace Franks Awards went to Larissa Cochrane, Stephen Lind, Terri White, Elyse Anton-Roberts, Megan Miller, Mark Brodwin, Brittany Ballas, Cindy-Lynn Harper, Ashley Murfin, Darby Brooker, Valerie Friesen, Megan Proski, Scott Lindquist, Amy Millar, Jonathan Burn, Kristin

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

Campbell and Tracie Czerkawski. Heinsburg Elementary's most improved students were Joanne Saddleback, Louise Moyah, Jordan McNab, Randi Daniels, Genevieve Faithful and John Quinney.

2003

Doctor recruitment was ongoing, and the joint committee of town, county, chamber and Interagency Health Committee representatives and Dr. Drew Ramful met with Aspen Regional Health Authority representatives, and learned that it would be necessary to exhaust a search in Canada for a physician by advertising for a minimum of six months before searching outside the country. Grace Franks awards went to Madeline Ludlage, Logan Becker, Ashley Wozniak, Trever Ballas, Joy Lambright, Taylor Cochrane, Tyson Moneta, Amber Ference, Brendan Bishop, Gregory Babcock, Brett Lindquist, Amber Babcock, Jordan Krankowsky, Eric Mosley and Nicole Kalynchuk.

2008

Good citizenship was stressed at Elk Point Elementary's Awards Day, where Brayden Vinge was the recipient of St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1's Grade 6 Academic Award, as well as one of the Grace Franks Awards and academic honours. Awards Day came close on the heels of a big stick-up by accelerated readers, who read enough books that they were allowed to duct-tape teachers and teachers' aides to the gym walls.

2013

Elk Point Elementary School's 2013 Awards Day focused on citizenship, sportsmanship and the achievements of well-rounded students. The ceremony was a bit shorter than in previous years, and reflected the changes that have come about since the introduction of outcome-based reporting, with only the St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1 Grade Six Academic Award based on the year's marks. Elk Point FCSS director Deanna Easthope attended the June 24 Elk Point Town Council to discuss upcoming changes in her department and to provide council with possible options on staffing when she retired at the end of the year and her assistant, Maria Cueva, left her position at the end of August.

Elk Point Review

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SPERD projecting \$1 million deficit, expense reductions

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

St. Paul Education Regional Division is projecting a \$1 million deficit in its 2018-19 budget, along with doing \$1 million in expense reductions.

The 2018-19 budget was approved a month ago at a May 30 meeting. The total budget expenses are pegged at just under \$57.5 million, with just under a \$1.1 million deficit, and is based on enrolment of 3,894 students.

"The projected deficit is in addition to approximately \$1 million in expense reductions," according to a media release from SPERD, dated June 27. "The adjustments were necessary to bring staffing in line with a 283 student decrease over the last four years as the economy slowed."

While the board had been "holding the line" in hopes that enrolment would rebound, this has not happened, so adjustments were made.

Secretary-treasurer Jean Champagne says the projected deficit is manageable, and will be offset by reserves, according to the media release. He noted that the budget is a projection, and that there are many unknowns moving forward, including actual enrolment numbers in the fall, collective agreements, and tuition rates.

Board chair Heather Starosielski said SPERD had little choice but to adjust to new enrolment numbers.

"It was pointed out that class size and pupil-teacher ratios remain among the lowest in the province and the board continues to emphasize having teachers there for students," reads the media release.

Speaking to the Journal last week, Starosielski explained that, "Several times throughout the year, administration met with division principals to gather information to forecast budget variables and project available financial resources. The administration then worked closely with the Board of Trustees to pass a budget that would best support student success."

She noted that every effort was made to create a budget that was as precise as possible, despite the variables that exist.

"With the reduction of students over the past recent years the board felt it was a prudent step to make a staffing correction that is more sustainable with projected enrolments and hopefully avoids deeper cuts later. . . While it is easy to increase staff once the year has started, it is more difficult to make cuts part way through a year."

The board wants a budget that is sustainable, said Starosielski.

"The decision to offset the deficit with reserves is not a sustainable option, but one the board felt comfortable doing in combination with cuts to assist with a longer-term solution."

Expenses in the 2018-19 budget include just over \$1.8 million for "Instruction - Early Childhood Services", and the division's biggest expense at \$42.1 million for "Instruction - Grades 1-12." Both items show a decrease in expenses when compared to the 2017-18 year.

Plant operations and maintenance is pegged at \$7.8 million (an increase from 2017-18), while transportation is budgeted to cost \$3.1 million (a decrease from \$3.2 million in the 2017-18 budget). Administration budget is set at \$2.4 million, which is also a decrease from the 2017-18 budget.

External services are pegged at \$114,290, down from \$211,783.

Last year's budget was set at \$58.1 million, and showed a deficit of \$1.4 million.

The bulk of revenues for the 2018-19 come from Alberta Education (\$43.7 million); and the federal government and First Nations (\$10.5 million). Fees, other sales and services, investment income, gifts and donations, rental of facilities, fundraising, gains on disposal of capital assets, and other revenue complete the rest of the budget.

Superintendent Glen Brodziak noted that while needs are always great than resources, the division continues to focus on "achievement and well-being" of its students and families. He believes the budget provides stability and supports priorities, including indigenous education, Catholic education, and small school supports.

Homeschooling Centre

The division is also moving forward on implements a home-schooling programs that will be based out of

Myrnam, while also increasing career planning supports.

"We want to meet the needs of our families," says Brodziak, when speaking specifically about the new Myrnam Outreach and Homeschool Centre. The homeschooling service will be available as soon as this fall, and while it is technically open to anyone in the province, Brodziak believes it will mostly serve division students.

The homeschooling centre will give families more options and flexibility in their children's education. For example, homeschooled students will be able to join a sports team at the school in Myrnam, or a drama club, if they choose to, or they can complete some CTS courses at the school.

Brodziak notes that the homeschooling centre is being done because the division respects that rights and beliefs of all families.

"The board is excited at looking at innovative solutions to meet students' needs," said Starosielski. "The Myrnam Outreach and Home Education Centre is one solution that will provide further flexibility in student learning."

Myrnam is also in the midst of the construction of its CTEC facility, which is being done through a partnership with the Village of Myrnam, and will include a variety of CTS equipment once it's finished. The CTEC facility is also expected to be ready for the start of the new school year in September.

The Village of Myrnam's CTEC facility, or Construction and Technology Education Centre, is a shared-use facility between the village and St. Paul Education. The facility will act as a home-base for students that homeschool through SPERD, according to information submitted by New Myrnam School.

Students will have full access to the CTEC facility, where they will be able to take CTS classes in construction, renewable energy and environmental studies, 3-D design and printing, horticulture, small business development and much more, reads the information from the school.

Families interested in exploring home education through SPERD are welcome to contact Keith Gamblin, principal of Myrnam Outreach & Homeschool Centre at gambkeit@sperd.ca or at (780) 366-3801, for more information. They can also check out our website at www.mohc.ca.

SPERD briefs

The new logo for St. Paul Education Regional Division was revealed at the June 21 board meeting. Trustee Rhonda Lafrance, who sits on the communications committee, spoke about the final product.

The committee looked at including everyone in the new branding, and acknowledged that "geographically and demographically, St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1 covers a large rural/urban area." The division is committed to recognizing the range of economic, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of its constituent learners.

(Continued on Page 6)



SPERD Academic Award

Board Trustee Lorne Young presents the Grade Six Academic Award from St. Paul Education Regional Division to Elk Point Elementary School student Casey Warawa.

Diane Dewan photo

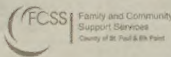
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Funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Canada



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To complete assessments for 2018, Assessors will be conducting physical inspections of properties throughout the County. When assessors enter onto your property, their vehicles will be clearly marked with the County of St. Paul's name and they will also be carrying identification tags.

Your cooperation with Assessor's is greatly appreciated, as it is essential in determining equitable property assessments.

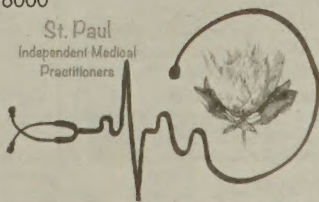
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This will run from
June 25, 2018 - July 31st, 2018
(August dates will be announced at the end of July)

SPERD

(Continued from Page 5)

The graphic included in the new SPERD signature is meant to represent the multifaceted array of connected, colourful learners in a configuration that reinforces the concept of shared insights and exchange, according to documents handed out in the June 21 agenda.

The logo is described as children sitting around a circle with books, and represents diversity with the colourful design.

"We really like the colours and how it all came together," said Lafrance.

Board chair Heather Starosielski said the new branding was a "refreshed version" of the division logo.

Superintendent Glen Brodziak noted that the division was very cognizant of the budget that had been set aside for the project, and that items such as business cards and other materials will only be ordered with the new logo as they are needed.

The launch of the new logo was described as a "soft launch."

A number of variations on the new logo was presented in the agenda, showing how the new logo could be incorporated into a number of documents, and products.

Accountability Pillar Summary

The spring 2018 Accountability Pillar Summary was presented at the June 21 board meeting.

The overall score for Safe and Caring Schools improved from acceptable (85.6 per cent) to Good (86.9 per cent). Under the Student Learning Opportunities category, Program Studies stayed close to the same, at "good," Education Quality

went from "good" to "excellent," Drop-Out Rate went from "good" to "excellent", and High School Completion stayed at "acceptable."

Under the Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship category, "Transition Rate" (which is the percentage of students going on to post-secondary studies within six years of graduation) went from "Issue" to "Acceptable," and Work Preparation also improved going from "Issue" to "Good." The Citizenship mark remained the same at "acceptable."

Parental Involvement stayed the same at "Acceptable," and School improvement remained at "Excellent."

There are "a lot of good things happening," said assistant superintendent Patricia Gervais, speaking of the results.

Brodziak noted that while the division is doing well, "we still always want to get better."

Gideons

A request from the May SPERD board meeting to allow Gideons International to provide free Youth Testament bibles to any interested Grade 5 students was denied by the school board during its June meeting.

The request falls outside policy, and administration recommended the request be denied. AP 521 speaks to the matter, and specifically speaks against the solicitation of students or their families for commercial, cultural, political, religious, or special interest groups.

Lafrance made the motion to deny the request, which was carried.

Ashmont School

The new Ashmont School is still progressing on schedule, with students being let out of class two days early last week so that staff could box up the

contents of the old school, and begin the moving process.

A garage sale had also been taking place at the school, which saw quite a bit of traffic. A lot of the items for sale are being reused, with Pakan School in Goodfish taking advantage of the items, along with schools within SPERD also taking some items.

The old school is scheduled for demolition in July, and students will return to class in September in the new school.

"It's a busy, busy place out there," said Brodziak.

Social Media

A social media policy was presented to the board, which is a "corporate code of conduct that provides guidelines to representatives of St. Paul Education ...who engage in social media activities for either personal or professional reasons."

Representatives include elected officials, staff, contractors, volunteers, or students whose comments may be interpreted as those of the division, according to the policy. During the board meeting, trustees questioned if they should be included, or if they should have their own policy.

The intent is that personal posts aren't confused as being SPERD's points of view, heard the board. Lafrance questioned the blending of personal and job related posts, noting that she followed pages and people on social media that relate to her position as a trustee.

"We want to keep the language strong in (our policy)," said Brodziak.

Privacy issues were also discussed, with Starosielski noting that even parents have been asked to take posts down

from social media if the post includes pictures from private classroom events, such as birthdays.

There is a difference between taking photos at a public event such as a Christmas concert or sporting event, compared to a private classroom event.

"We have to follow FOIP and the legislation," said Brodziak.

Classroom Improvement Fund

While the Government of Alberta has renewed the Classroom Improvement Fund for another year, the school division will have to look at using the funds differently than in the past. The fund will put \$77 million into Alberta classrooms in 2018/19.

Last year, the division asked teachers specifically where they would like the funds to go, allowing teachers to have a say over improving the classroom experience. This year, funds have to go to staffing or specific areas.

"For the 2018-19 school year, the focus is on hiring and retaining teachers and support staff, as well as better supporting students with complex needs, or those learning one of Canada's official languages for the first time," reads the Government of Alberta website.

SPERD will wait until September to decide where the funds will go.

Brodziak noted that he would have been the first to agree to allow teachers to decide where the funds went, saying, "it was wonderful." And while that can't be done, the funds will still be used.

Starosielski noted that putting the funds only to staffing has its challenges. She noted that while the division could use a psychologist, or similar type of position, it's hard to attract someone to the position when funding isn't guaranteed year to year.

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Announcements

Thank you

Don & Siri Lorensen would like to thank
everyone who sent condolences, came by
the house to visit, for all the soups, cookies,
squares, cakes & pies, and all the beautiful
cards. You are very thoughtful! Thank you to
those who traveled to Ft. Saskatchewan to
attend Richard's funeral. It meant so much.
It's been a very difficult time & Richard will
be missed. R.I.P. Son.

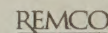
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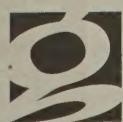
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FGM Grad

(Continued from Front Page)

"The teachers in this room know what each of our weaknesses are, yet they pushed each and every one of us to make us stronger. Not only have they helped our minds grow, they have helped us grow into the people we are today." The teachers started lunch hour groups "to try to help kids feel like they belong and meet new people with similar interests. The whole staff tries to make everyone feel like they belong and that they are important, which is truly an amazing feeling."

Dave Shankowski was unable to be on hand to give the reply, but Mr. Casper read it on his behalf. "A graduation speech should be meaningful and short, about the first day of the rest of your life, dreaming big and going out and changing the world. That has a different meaning for each person. Change yourself and the community around you, doing things that take time and effort. I am hoping you will change the world, but first make sure your own life is in order. First, master yourself, be disciplined and focused if you want to be successful. And don't confuse success with financial success. Be trustworthy and a good moral person."

An example, he said, was Sage Lowry, who graduated from FGM in 2007 and became a nurse who spent one month each year nursing in some far-off country. "She is an example of a person who made an impact on friends and on the world around her." Sadly, Lowry died after a road crash earlier this year.

Athletic director Jon Randall came forward to congratulate all the grads and to list eight students who played five or more sports during high school and who have become role models in athletics. Morgan Baker, DJ Drobot, Brayden Fairbairn, Dana Gibson, Dawson Haesh, Alex Hunter, Sydney Letwin and Jaden Plaska would all receive a F. G. Miller Athletics lawn chair in recognition of their efforts.

Brayden Fairbairn gave the valedictory address, noting that, "over the past three years, we have learned a lot... terms of complicated polynomials using the binomial theorem... Freudian Psychology and the ID Ego and Superego... and that only professionals should handle dry ice in pop bottles."

"All of this knowledge will no doubt be valuable as we go forward in life. But I think that the most important thing we have learned is that change is a constant in our lives. No matter how hard we try, we cannot keep things the same."



TRADITION CONTINUES - The traditional passing of the Crusader sword saw Dana Gibson and Jaden Plaska pass the time-honored symbol to Nick Anderson and Abby Baker.

After graduation, "Most of us will move away to college or university, start a new job, live in a new city, make new friends and cook our own meals. All of us are ready for this change. Over the past 12 years, we have developed many skills and are ready to apply them in our future. The fact that we are all here at graduation shows how successful we all are at dealing with challenges and the changes we have faced. We know how to work hard, dedicate ourselves, adjust our approach when it is not working and persevere no matter what happens."

"In the future, all of us will face change. You can rely on yourself to make the changes necessary and to be able to deal with those unexpected changes. Without changes, life would be dull and repetitive. There will be difficult changes, but we will all be able to work our way through these difficult times and come out on top."

As principal Colin Bjorkman presented the diplomas, along with eagle feathers to five students and Métis sashes to another three, vice principal and master of ceremonies Darcy Younghans gave the class history of each grad, noting special accomplishments and awards they have received.

Following a power point presentation, the grads rose, tossing their mortarboards high in the air before their triumphant recessional with diplomas in hand.



VALEDICTORIAN honours went to Brayden Fairbairn, who spoke of the need for the Class of 2018 to adapt to change in their future lives.



MEGAN PHILLIPS thanked the teachers for their willingness to help, understand and "make kids feel like they belong and are important."



NOLAN VOGEL, who thanked the parents on behalf of the class, was inadvertently referred to as his brother Carson in last week's issue. Our sincere apologies for the error.

Scholarships, awards for FGM grads

Dana Gibson - Barrie Wayne McFadyen Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the McFadyen family, Jim Vinge Memorial Sports Award (\$500) sponsored by the friends and family of Jim Vinge, Steve Kuziw Memorial Award (\$1,000) sponsored by Elk Point Elks #460, Most Valuable Grade 12 Female Athlete in Cross Country, Basketball and Track and Field

Warren Ference - Barrie Wayne McFadyen Trade Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the McFadyen family, Shamrock Valley Enterprises Trade Scholarship (\$2,000) sponsored by Murry and Lisa Nielsen, Inerpipeland Discovery Award, Schulich Award,

Darby Swedgan - Malcolm Robert McFadyen Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the McFadyen family.

Megan Phillips - Bepalko/Sribney Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the Bepalko and Sribney families, Violet E. McFadyen Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by the family of Violet E. McFadyen, Premier's Citizenship Award

Brayden Fairbairn - E. H. Bjornstad Scholarship (\$1,000) sponsored by Elk Point Elks #460, PharmaChoice Math and Science Award (\$200) sponsored by Elk Point PharmaChoice Drugstore, SPERD Top Grade 12 Marks Award

Brody Odgaard - Lawrence Modin Memorial Scholarship (\$500) sponsored by Elk Point and District Lions Club.

Nolan Vogel - Shamrock Valley Enterprises Engineering Scholarship (\$2,000) sponsored by Murry and Lisa Nielsen.

Morgan Baker - Senior Girls Basketball Leadership Award
DJ Drobot - Most Valuable Grade 12 Athlete Award for Cross Country, Boys' Basketball and Track and Field, Sr. Boys Basketball Leadership Award.

Dawson Haesh - Heard Award for Sr. Basketball
Sydney Letwin - Sr. Girls Basketball Leadership Award, Grade 12 Most Valuable Basketball Player Award

Jaden Plaska - Most Valuable Athlete Grade 12 Boys Volleyball and Track and Field Award, Sr. Boys Volleyball Sportsmanship Award.

The Dr. Anne Wiegerinck Scholarship, two Elk Point Health Care Auxiliary Scholarships and the Challenger Technical Services Scholarship will be announced at a later date.

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